APPENDIX D
PROPOSED FOREST PLAN AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENT DESCRIPTION & FINDING OF NON-SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENTS

The Responsible Official has evaluated the following analysis and concluded that the proposed site-specific amendments described in detail below do not constitute a significant amendment to the Nez Perce National Forest Plan (1987a). The following is provided to disclose the proposed amendments and effects analysis for the proposed forest plan amendments. All amendments are site-specific to the Red Pines project.

POLICY AND PURPOSE

Under the National Forest Management Act [NFMA, 16 USC 1604(f)(4)], forest plans may "be amended in any manner whatsoever after final adoption and after public notice, and, if such amendment would result in a significant change in such plan, be in accordance with subsections (e) and (f) of this section and public involvement comparable to that required by subsection (d) of this section." The NFMA regulations at 36 CFR 219.8 states:" For each proposal for a plan amendment, the responsible official must complete appropriate environmental analyses and public involvement in accordance with Forest Service NEPA procedures."

The Forest Service Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook (Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Section 5.32) provides a framework for consideration of significance. It lists the following four factors to be used when determining whether a proposed change to a forest plan is significant or not significant: (a) timing; (b) location and size; (c) goals, objectives and outputs, and; (d) management prescriptions.

The items discussed below are listed in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Section 5.32, as factors to be used when determining whether a proposed amendment to a Forest Plan is significant or not significant. Each proposed amendment will address each factor.

Timing: The timing factor examines at what point over the course of the forest plan period that the plan is amended. Both the age of the underlying document and the duration of the amendment are relevant considerations. The handbook indicates that the later in the time period, the less significant the change is likely to be.

Location and Size: The key to the location and size criteria is context or "the relationship of the affected area to the overall planning area", "the smaller the area affected, the less likely the change is to be a significant change in the forest plan."

Goals, Objectives, and Outputs: The goals, objectives, and outputs factor involves the determination of "whether the change alters the long-term relationship between the level of goods and services in the overall planning area" (Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Section 5.32(c)). This criterion concerns analysis of the overall forest plan and the various multiple-use resources that may be affected.

Management Prescription: The management prescription factor involves the determination of (1), "whether the change in a management prescription is only for a specific situation or whether it would apply to the future decisions throughout the planning area" and (2), "whether or not the change alters the desired future condition of the land and resources or the anticipated goods and services to be produced" (Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Section 5.32(d)).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The text of the two proposed Forest Plan Amendment was included in the DEIS. Chapter IV of contains responses to public comments regarding the two proposed amendments. Additional analysis and text was added to the FEIS to clarify proposed amendments (in Chapter II, Chapter III, Appendix D, and Appendix H).

The ongoing Forest Plan revision will address the broader allocation and uses associated with this area in context of the programs across the Nez Perce National Forest. However, until the revision is complete, fishery and water quality objectives desired in Red River are still considered valid goals through the remainder of this planning period.

SOILS

Past activities have altered soils conditions within the Red Pines project area. Both the current Forest Plan standards and Forest Service Regional soil quality guidelines provide direction to maintain soil productivity. The proposed amendment would change the Forest Plan standards (more restrictive), and allow activities to occur and provide for soil restoration in detrimentally disturbed areas.

FISHERY/WATER QUALITY

Management direction, including goals, objectives and standards in the Forest Plan were developed based on current and desired conditions of fish habitat and water quality. Appendix A of the Forest Plan directs activities within prescription watershed.

Since 1987, the Forest has collected new information about fish species and water quality conditions within the Red River watershed. This new information is proposed to be added or updated to the Forest Plan to provide accurate direction based on fish species and beneficial uses. As a result of a beetle infestation in the Red River watershed many of the lodgepole trees have died and forest fuel levels increased, creating a concern about of forest conditions. These vegetation conditions require treatment. Based on current instream conditions and Forest Plan objectives, treatment of these areas was not allowed under the current Forest Plan until certain habitat conditions were met. Certain sediment-producing projects within the restoration activities would also require amending the Forest Plan.

The proposed amendments would allow activities to occur sooner than originally planned, allow one-time exceedance to sediment yield guidelines and suspend upward trend requirements in some watersheds. The amendment suspending upward trend requirements does not apply to all alternatives.

PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENTS - SOILS

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

AMENDMENT NO. XX (PROPOSED)

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENT TO SOIL QUALITY STANDARD #2

FOR THE RED PINES PROJECT AREA

The purpose of this amendment is to allow fuel hazard reduction activities in areas that currently exceed Forest Plan soil quality standard #2.

The Nez Perce National Forest soil quality standards (Forest Plan II-22) apply to lands in the Red Pines project area. Soil quality standard #2 currently reads as follows:

"A minimum of 80 percent of an activity area shall not be detrimentally compacted, displaced, or puddled upon completion of activities. This direction does not apply to permanent recreation facilities and other permanent facilities such as system roads".

The following amendment is proposed, specific to the Red Pines project area:

"Where detrimental soil conditions from past activities affect 15 percent or less of the activity area, a cumulative minimum of 85 percent of the activity area shall not be detrimentally compacted, displaced, or puddled upon completion of activities.

Where detrimental soil conditions from past activities affect more than 15 percent of the activity area, the cumulative detrimental soil disturbance from project implementation and past activities shall not exceed the conditions prior to the planned activity and shall provide a net improvement in soil quality."

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS - SOILS

Soil Standard #2 (NPFP, II-22) will be amended with a site specific Forest Plan Amendment for the Red Pines project area on the Red River Ranger District. The amendment will allow fuels reduction treatments and restoration activities to proceed in an area with extensive pre-existing detrimental soil conditions. The amendment takes into account the amount of detrimental soil disturbance, and allows the flexibility to achieve multiple resource objectives while showing an upward trend in net soil condition.

TIMING

The amended Soil Standard #2 will be effective until the Forest Plan is revised or amended. The Nez Perce National Forest is in the process of forest plan revision, with completion of the revision process planned for 2007. The temporal scope of the amendment is therefore limited.

LOCATION AND SIZE

The proposed Forest Plan amendment would affect implementation of activities only in the Red Pines project area. The project area encompasses approximately 103,000 acres, and is located in Townships 27, 28 and 29 North, Ranges 8, 9, and 10 East, Boise Meridian. The project area represents less than five percent of the total 2,274,146 acres of National Forest System land within the Nez Perce National Forest.

Proposed activities for Red Pines include soil restoration activities to achieve a net improvement within proposed fuel reduction units with past soil disturbance, as well as disturbed areas outside proposed fuel reduction units. There are 10 to 11 units that have activity areas that exceed the 15 percent disturbance standard, but will show a net improvement following treatment (See FEIS, Section 3.4.6.2). The preferred Alternative E of the Red Pines project proposes to actively manage through fuels reduction roughly 3,454 acres, and soil restoration on roughly 547 acres within the Red River watershed. These 4,001 acres represent less than two percent of the total National Forest System land on the Nez Perce National Forest.

Table D-1: SOIL - Forest Plan Amendment by Alternative

	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E
Site specific - Soil Quality Standard 2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Units that have activity areas that exceed the 15% disturbance standard, but will show a net improvement following treatment	11	11	10	10

GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND OUTPUTS

The Forest Plan goal for soils is to maintain soil productivity and minimize any irreversible impacts to the soil resource. The Forest Plan objective for soils is to maintain soil productivity and minimize soil erosion through the application of best management practices, careful riparian area management, use of fishery/water quality drainage objectives, and soil and water resource improvement projects.

This amendment is fully consistent with the goals and objective of the Nez Perce Forest Plan because the amendment would: impose a standard to maintain soil productivity and allow activities to restore areas with considerable pre-existing detrimental soil disturbance. These activities will respond both directly and indirectly to the Forest Plan goal and objective for soils. The activities will not inhibit achievement of the Forest Plan goal/objective. This amendment will allow a net improvement in soil condition in the units treated with prior impacts.

This is a site-specific amendment of Forest Plan soil quality standard #2 for lands within the Red Pines project area. This site-specific amendment would allow the Red Pines project to proceed despite the fact that several proposed fuel reduction units currently exceed the 20% compacted, displaced or puddled standard for soils.

The recent extensive lodge pole pine morality in the Red River watershed, resulting from a mountain pine beetle outbreak, initiated the need to remove dead and dying trees and reduce forest fuels in areas that have been previously managed. The soil analysis for the Red Pines project area found that many of the units harvested in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s with ground based systems, have compacted or displaced soils over more than 20% of the harvested area. Proposed activities for Red Pines include soil restoration activities to achieve a net improvement within proposed fuel reduction units with past soil disturbance, as well as disturbed areas outside proposed fuel reduction units. In order to enter these units under the Red Pines project to reduce hazardous fuels, an amendment to soil quality standard #2 is needed.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

Amendment of Forest Plan Soil Standard #2 is specific or applicable only to the Red Pines activity areas (any action alternative). This amendment does not apply to activities occurring outside the Red Pines activity areas. The proposed change would occur on less than two percent of the forest (4.001 acres, Alternative E), therefore there would be no measurable change to goods and services produced within the total forest planning unit (2,274,146 acres, Forest) prior to completion of the Forest Plan revision.

This direction does not apply to permanent recreation facilities and other permanent facilities such as system roads. This amendment would make the Forest Plan standard consistent with Regional soil quality guidelines.

PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENTS – FISHERY/WATER QUALITY

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

AMENDMENT NO. XX (PROPOSED)

AMENDMENT TO APPENDIX A FOR PRESCRIPTION WATERSHEDS WITHIN THE RED RIVER WATERSHED

Depending upon alternative selected, the purpose of this amendment is: 1) to allow fuel hazard reduction and watershed improvement activities to be implemented in the Red River watershed concurrently with aquatic improvement activities, as long as an upward trend is indicated; 2) to update Appendix-A Table A-1 based on new information for several prescription watersheds; 3) to allow a one-time exceedance of Appendix A sediment yield guidelines for some Red Pines watersheds; and 4) to suspend upward trend requirements for this project in some watersheds where achievement is not likely given project objectives.

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS & AMENDMENTS - WATER QUALITY/FISHERY

Table D-2 summarizes the analysis factors of the proposed fishery/water quality amendments. See also following tables and text for amendment information. The following tables display the watersheds affected, acres per watershed, percent of the project area, and percent of the Nez Perce Forest area for each amendment. Overall the amendments would affect 24 of 26 of the subwatersheds (98% of the project area; 4.54% of the forest).

Table D-2: Summary of Size, Goals, Objective and Outputs by Amendment.

Amendment	Timing	Location & Size	Goals	Objectives	Outputs
First	Until end of project Implementation (est. 2015) & Applies to other projects until the Forest Plan is revised	20 subwatersheds 90,627 acres 88% project area 3.88% Forest Table D-3	No Change	No Change	Allows more vegetation and restoration activities to occur in the short term
Second	Until end of project Implementation (est. 2015) & Applies to other projects until the Forest Plan is revised	5 subwatersheds 14,329 acres 14% project area 0.64% Forest Table D-5	No Change	Updated Table D-4	Applies more restrictive Desired Future Condition (DFC) objectives in Little Moose Creek and Deadwood Creek and establishes DFC guidelines for Lowest Red River.
Third	Until end of project Implementation (est. 2015)	4 subwatersheds 25% project area 25,981 acres 0.01% Forest Table D-6	No Change	No Change	Allows more vegetation activities to occur in the short term. Table D-4
Fourth	Until end of project implementation (est. 2015)	7 subwatersheds 44% project area 45,339 acres 0.02% Forest Table D-7	No Change	No Change	Allows more vegetation and restoration activities to occur in the short term. Table D-4

AMENDMENT – FIRST.

Site-specific – Appendix-A. This amendment allows concurrent fuels reduction activities with aquatic improvement activities, with an upward trend.

PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENT – FISHERY/WATER QUALITY

This amendment proposes to change, the Forest Plan Appendix-A footnote language for **Ditch, Trail, Bridge, Baston**, and **Soda Creeks**, and **Upper Main** and **Main Red River** that reads in part as follows:

> *"* Management-derived sediment which could affect fish habitat will not be allowed until monitoring indicates habitat has recovered to planned levels." (Forest Plan A-7)*

The proposed fuel reduction activities, as well as many of the aquatic improvement activities, would produce sediment in the short-term that could affect fish habitat. Restoration activities, however, are designed to result in an upward trend in watershed condition over time. Therefore, in order to enter into the above named prescription watersheds to reduce hazardous fuels and implement certain aquatic improvement activities, an amendment is needed.

The proposed Forest Plan amendment would replace Appendix-A footnote language for **Ditch, Trail**, **Bridge, Baston, and Soda creeks**, and **Upper Main and Main Red** River to allow concurrent activities. And the amendment would change the Forest Plan Appendix A footnote direction for **Siegel, Deadwood, Red Horse, Dawson, Moose Butte, Otterson, Schooner and Trapper creeks**, **Lower Red River, Lower and Upper South Fork Red River**, and **Middle Fork and West Fork Red River** currently allows management activities concurrent with habitat improvement efforts (Forest Plan A-7); however, these would be amended as well for consistency and clarification in the Red River watershed.

The following text would be added:

> *" 6/ Aquatic conditions in these watersheds have been determined to fall below levels needed to meet fish/water quality objectives. Management activities can occur concurrently with aquatic improvements in these watersheds as long as an upward trend in habitat carrying capacity is indicated. Upward trend is indicated using multiple sources of information including stream surveys, monitoring data, predictive modeling, literature reviews and/or professional judgment. It is not specifically required that an upward trend be demonstrated through monitoring prior to initiation of management activities."*

TIMING

This amendment would be in place until end of Red Pines project implementation (est. 2015) and would apply to other projects until the Forest Plan is revised. The Nez Perce National Forest is in the process of forest plan revision, with completion of the revision process planned for 2007. The temporal scope of the amendment is therefore limited.

LOCATION AND SIZE

The proposed Forest Plan amendment would directly effect 20 identified prescription watersheds. These 20 prescription watersheds encompass approximately 90,000 acres (88% of the project area, 3.88% of the Forest). This would apply to all action alternatives (B, C, D and E).

Table D-3: Amendment- First : Watershed information

Alternative	Watershed Name	Watershed (acres)	% of Project Area (acres)	% of Forest
Yes - B,C, D, E	Baston Creek	1,640	2%	0.07%
	Bridge Creek	2,368	2%	0.10%
	Dawson Creek	2,117	2%	0.09%
	Deadwood Creek	3,960	4%	0.17%
	Ditch Creek	2,995	3%	0.13%
	Lower Main Red River	8,951	9%	0.39%
	Lower South Fork Red River	4,840	5%	0.21%
	Main Red River	10,651	10%	0.47%
	Middle Fork Red River	1,894	2%	0.08%
	Moose Butte Creek	7,104	7%	0.31%
	Otterson Creek	2,465	2%	0.11%
	Red Horse Creek	5,834	6%	0.26%
	Schooner Creek	1,614	2%	0.07%
	Siegel Creek	7,792	8%	0.34%
	Soda Creek	3,383	3%	0.15%
	Trail Creek	4,576	4%	0.20%
	Trapper Creek	5,829	6%	0.26%
	Upper Main Red River	3,927	4%	0.17%
	Upper South Fork Red River	4,677	5%	0.21%
	West Fork Red River	4,010	4%	0.18%
	Total	**90,627**	**88%**	**3.88%**

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND OUTPUTS

This proposed amendment would change how Forest Plan objectives are achieved. Footnotes for streams in Appendix-A of the Forest plan, would be revised for prescription watersheds in Table D-3. This Forest Plan Amendment would not change any goals, objectives of the Forest Plan, however it does allow more vegetation and restoration activities to occur in the short term.

The proposed fuel reduction activities, as well as many of the aquatic improvement activities, would produce sediment in the short-term that could affect fish habitat. Restoration activities, however, are designed to result in an upward trend in watershed condition over time. Therefore, in order to enter into the above named prescription watersheds to reduce hazardous fuels and implement certain aquatic improvement activities, an amendment is needed.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

The change in footnotes will apply directly to the identified prescription watersheds only. This amendment would be in place until end of Red Pines project implementation (est. 2015) and would apply to other projects until the Forest Plan is revised. This amendment does not change the desired future conditions within the Red Pines project area.

AMENDMENT – SECOND.

Site specific – Appendix-A, Table A-1. Updates existing stream information and adds previously omitted stream information.

PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENT – FISHERY/WATER QUALITY

This amendment proposes to update some of the information contained in Appendix-A, Table A-1 of the Nez Perce Forest Plan based on new, site-specific information. We propose to change the beneficial use for **Blanco** and **Campbell** Creeks from 'no fishery' to 'anadromous' based on observations of juvenile steelhead trout in these streams in 2002 and 2003. We are not proposing to amend the fishery/water quality objectives, sediment yield guidelines, and entry frequency guidelines, however, because these streams are of relatively low importance to fish. Both are below objective, and we would include footnoted direction regarding upward trend in these streams (see previous discussion).

We propose to change the beneficial use in **Little Moose** and **Deadwood** Creeks from 'resident' to 'anadromous' based on observations on juvenile steelhead trout in Deadwood Creek and juvenile chinook salmon in the lower reaches of Little Moose Creek. A bull trout was also observed in the lower reaches of Little Moose Creek. We are proposing to amend the sediment yield and entry frequency guidelines for both streams because of their relative importance to fish, consistent with other streams of the same importance and same overall channel types.

We propose to assign sediment yield and entry frequency guidelines for **Lowest Red River**, which was not delineated in the original Nez Perce Forest Plan. All changes are summarized below in Table D-4 (**in bold**).

Table D-4: Proposed Changes to Appendix A, Table A-1.

Prescription Watershed	Beneficial Use[1]	Current Fish Habitat Potential % (Forest Plan)	Fishery/Water Quality Objective	Sediment Yield Guideline (% Over Base)	Entry Frequency Guideline
Blanco Creek	**A**	--	70	60	3
Campbell Creek	**A**	--	70	60	3
Deadwood Creek	**A**	40	**80**	**45**	**2**
Little Moose Creek	**A**	70	**80**	**45**	**2**
Lowest Red River	**A**	**--**	**90**	**30**	**1**

[1]Key for Beneficial Use: A = anadromous, R = resident, -- = No Fishery

TIMING

The addition and update of fishery/water quality objectives and sediment yield guidelines would be in place until end of Red Pines project implementation (est. 2015) and would apply to other projects until the Forest Plan is revised. The Nez Perce National Forest is in the process of forest plan revision, with completion of the revision process planned for 2007. The temporal scope of the amendment is therefore limited.

LOCATION AND SIZE

The proposed Forest Plan Amendment would directly effect the five identified prescription watersheds. However, the sediment yield guideline for Lowest Red River is calculated to include all of the upstream contributing watersheds (see Forest Plan Appendix A footnotes). These five prescription watersheds encompass approximately 15,000 acres (14% of the project area; 0.64% of the Forest). This would apply to all action alternatives (B, C, D, and E).

Table D-5: Amendment - Second: Watershed information.

Alternative	Watershed Name	Watershed (acres)	% of Project Area (acres)	% of Forest
Yes - B, C, D, E	Blanco Creek	1,445	1%	0.06%
	Campbell Creek	1,146	1%	0.05%
	Deadwood Creek	3,961	4%	0.17%
	Little Moose Butte Creek	3,539	3%	0.16%
	Lowest Red River	4,539	4%	0.20%
	Total	**14,629**	**14%**	**0.64%**

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND OUTPUTS

The Forest Plan Amendment would correct information presented in Forest Plan Appendix A to reflect current information.

The sediment yield guideline for Little Moose Creek, Campbell Creek and Lowest Red River were assigned based on the assumption of fish presence. Assessment of these streams since the Forest Plan indicates the streams support chinook salmon, steelhead trout and bull trout. For consistency within Forest Plan Appendix A, the sediment yield guideline would decrease to 30 or 45% and the fishery/water quality objective would increase to 80 or 90%, depending upon the stream.

Sediment yield and entry frequency guidelines will be more restrictive for Little Moose Creek, Deadwood Creek and Lowest Red River. It is uncertain if Forest Plan outputs will be changed because there are no plans for entries beyond what is proposed with this decision. Therefore, it is difficult to say whether the more restrictive entry frequency for these watersheds will be realized in this decade or future decades.

Activities associated with this project were less limited by entry frequency and sediment guidelines than by implementing Forest Plan Amendment 20 (PACFISH).

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

The change in objectives and sediment yield guidelines will apply directly to the identified prescription watersheds. The changes will apply to activities associated with the Red Pines project and any future actions occurring in this area. These changes will remain in effect through the implementation of the Red Pines project. This amendment does not change the desired future conditions within the Red Pines project area.

AMENDMENT – THIRD.

Site specific – Appendix-A. To allow one-time exceedance sediment yield guidelines.

PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENT – FISHERY/WATER QUALITY

This amendment would allow hazardous fuel hazard reduction activities and temporary road construction in watersheds where these activities are predicted to result in peak sediment yields that exceed guidelines listed in Table A-1 of Appendix-A.

Appendix-A includes fishery/water quality objectives and sediment yield and entry frequency guidelines that provide management direction in terms of the maximum estimated increase in sediment over baseline conditions that can be approached or equaled for a specified number of years per decade. These guidelines are intended to limit peak sediment yields such that the fishery/water quality objectives can be met, especially when combined with restoration activities in "below-objective" watersheds. Sediment yield guidelines vary based on channel type, beneficial use, species present, and overall value of the watershed to fishery resources, with the most conservative guidelines applied to high-value watersheds such as Red River.

We are proposing to allow a one-time exceedance of these values for Alternatives B and C in the following watersheds: **Ditch Creek, Main Red River, Lower Red River, and Soda Creek.** For Alternatives D and E, we are proposing a one-time exceedance for **Lower Red River**. Both Lower Red River and Moose Butte Creek exceed the sediment yield guidelines in Appendix A, in their existing condition (Alternative A). Since we are not proposing any entries into Moose Butte Creek under any alternative, it is not included in this amendment.

TIMING

The change in sediment yield guidelines will be in effect for the duration of the Red Pines project implementation (est. 10 years). The temporal scope of the amendment is therefore limited.

LOCATION AND SIZE

The proposed Forest Plan Amendment would directly effect the four identified prescription watersheds, depending upon alternative (Table D-6). However, the allowed one-time exceedance of the sediment yield guidelines and increase in entry frequency, in watersheds, currently "below objective". The Lowest Red River amendment would include all of the upstream contributing watersheds (see Forest Plan Appendix A footnotes). These four prescription watersheds encompass approximately 26,000 acres (25% of the project area, 0.01% of the Forest).

Table D-6: Amendment - Third : Watershed information.

Alternative	Watershed Name	Watershed (acres)	% of Project Area (acres)	% of Forest
Yes - B, C	Ditch Creek	2,995	3%	0.13%
Yes - B, C, D, E	Lower Main Red River [1]	8,951	9%	0.39%
Yes - B, C	Main Red River	10,651	10%	0.47%
Yes - B, C	Soda Creek	3,383	3%	0.15%
	Total	**25,981**	**25%**	**0.01%**

1 Exceeds Forest Plan, sediment yield guidelines under existing conditions (Alternative A).

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND OUTPUTS

This Forest Plan Amendment would not change any goals, objectives of the Forest Plan, however it does allow more vegetation activities to occur in the short term.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

One-time allowed exceedance changes in sediment yield guidelines will apply directly to the identified prescription watersheds. The changes will apply to activities associated with the Red Pines project. These changes would remain in effect for the duration of the Red Pines project implementation. This amendment does not change the desired future conditions within the Red Pines project area.

AMENDMENT – FOURTH.

Site-specific – Appendix A. To suspend upward trend requirements in some watersheds. This amendment would allow hazardous fuel hazard reduction activities and temporary road construction in watersheds where these activities are predicted to result in peak sediment yields that exceed guidelines listed in Table A-1 of Appendix A.

PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENT – FISHERY/WATER QUALITY

This amendment proposes to amend the upward trend language included above for Alternatives B and C for the following watersheds: **Ditch Creek, Main Red River, Lower Red River, Red Horse Creek, Lowest Red River, and Siegel Creek.** For Alternative D, we propose to amend the upward trend language for: **Trail Creek, Main Red River, Lower Red River, and Lowest Red River.** This amendment would not be needed for Alternative E.

Because of project objectives, we are not able to show an improving trend in habitat carrying capacity into the foreseeable given available tools and technologies. Although improvement in watershed condition would be achieved, given the existing condition of instream habitat, cumulative effects, and the magnitude of sediment yield predicted from implementation of Alternatives B, C, and D, an improvement in habitat carrying capacity is unlikely over the short-term, based on predicted increases in deposited sediment and other information.

Therefore, language related to upward trend requirements would not apply to these watersheds under implementation of Alternatives B, C, and D.

These changes are proposed because fuel reduction activities under Alternatives B, C, and D have been assigned a higher priority than short-term maintenance or restoration of these watersheds. The majority of sediment contributing to high peak sediment yields in these watersheds is associated with construction of temporary roads (see Appendix H for further discussion). Temporary roads are needed to access fuel treatment blocks, without which there are no known economical methods of removing hazardous fuels.

TIMING

The change in sediment yield guidelines will be in effect for the duration of the Red Pines project implementation (est. 10 years). The temporal scope of the amendment is therefore limited.

LOCATION AND SIZE

The proposed Forest Plan Amendment would directly affect the seven identified prescription watersheds, depending upon alternative (Table D-7). The Lowest Red River amendment would include all of the upstream contributing watersheds (see Forest Plan Appendix A footnotes). These seven prescription watersheds encompass approximately 45,000 acres (44% of the project area, 0.02% of the Forest).

Table D-7: Amendment - Forth: Watershed information.

Alternative	Watershed	Watershed (acres)	% of Project Area (acres)	% of Forest
Yes - B, C	Ditch Creek	2,995	3%	0.13%
Yes - B, C, D	Lower Main Red River	8,951	9%	0.39%
Yes - B, C, D	Lowest Red River	4,539	4%	0.20%
Yes - B, C, D	Main Red River	10,651	10%	0.47%
Yes - B, C	Red Horse Creek	5,834	6%	0.26%
Yes - B, C	Siegel Creek	7,792	8%	0.34%
Yes - D	Trail Creek	4,576	4%	0.20%
	Total	**45,339**	**44%**	**0.02%**

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND OUTPUTS

This Forest Plan Amendment would not change any goals, objectives of the Forest Plan, however it does allow more vegetation and restoration activities to occur in the short term. The need for an improving trend in these streams continues. Fuel reduction activities and restoration activities would occur sooner than planned, as would the relative outputs by alternative.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTION

One-time change the footnotes for upward trend requirements will apply directly to the identified prescription watersheds. The changes will apply to activities associated with the Red Pines project. These changes will remain in effect for the duration of the Red Pines project. This amendment does not change the desired future conditions within the Red Pines project area.

This page left intentionally blank.